

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT The Egyesült Izzo Company/Key Research Personnel

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1. The Egyesült Izzo Company, an electronics concern, was, until the Soviets entered Budapest in 1945, one of the largest and most modern electronics plants in Hungary. During World War II it produced electronics equipment for the Germans and Hungarians. When the Soviet military forces entered Budapest in 1945 prior to final capitulation, they dismantled and sent to the USSR several of the machines. By the fall of 1946 the Soviets had apparently decided against further removal of parts and machinery.

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2. The site of the Egyesült Izzo E I plant is the town of Újpest, a suburb of Budapest.

Although this concern produced a number of electronic items, its major output was in the manufacture of light bulbs, radio tubes and radio parts. The radio tubes and light bulbs which were produced prior to 1945 were of an excellent quality. they were at the very least equal in quality to similarly produced items in the US. With reference to output this plant produced not only for domestic needs but exported to the UK and, to Germany.

3. the high quality in light bulbs and radio tubes was maintained because the research department had developed a process by which the tungsten filament used was made more durable. the plant engineers had developed a process by which the tungsten was molded into a paste-like substance and placed within a furnace or some machine which automatically made the finished bulb - all in a single but continuous process. claims that the E I Company has a subsidiary in Argentina which also produces light bulbs and radio tubes.

4. The physical installations of this plant with its auxiliary buildings cover approximately 100 acres sig. The principal installation is a three-story

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brick building which covers much of the entire area. During World War II the number of employees engaged in production was approximately one thousand. However, [] the occupying Soviet forces had taken many parts and had dismantled a number of machines.

5. After World War II the Hungarian Government nationalized industry. This plant, no longer a private concern, was nationalized and preparations were made to return the installation to a production basis. [] in March 1949, the plant was back in operation but not with the previous productive output. The number of employees in March 1949 was about 250. It appeared that raw materials required for operation and production were sufficient. [] one vital item which Hungary used to produce in quantity, glass, had to be imported. [] glass was imported from Germany.

6. Morale of the employees in 1946 and 1947 was at a low ebb. Most of the laborers were unable to make more than a mere living wage (this was due primarily to the inflationary period of 1946-47). Further, in 1947, the plant was not in operation on a full time basis. In 1947 and 1948 the salary of a research engineer or production engineer was about 600 forints. The cost of living and the value of 600 forints might best be indicated by the following: a one bedroom apartment in Budapest rented for 130 forints a month under the Government rent control schedules, the minimum cost of a suit of clothing was 500 forints, the cheapest shoes began at 200 forints. The working hours at E I in March 1949 consisted of one shift per day. Operations began at 7:00 a.m. and terminated at 5:00 p.m.

7. The President of the company [] was an excellent physicist. []

8. []

9. Engineers who were at E I []

- a. Dr (fnu) Milner - Head of the Research Laboratory. He received his PhD from the Royal Hungarian University of Technical Science. In 1949, Dr Milner was in his early fifties []

[] His outstanding reputation at the plant as a research engineer at E I was established on the basis of research in tungsten for filament. He has a number of publications on the various tungsten oxides, published in German and maybe English, some articles appearing in Journals of Chemistry, particularly in Zeitschrift Physik. []

- b. Janos Tobik - a chemical engineer and a graduate of the Royal Hungarian University of Technical Science, was 24 years of age in 1947. Tobik, who was considered a good chemical engineer, is a blond slender fellow and wore glasses. He was a member of the research staff doing work on tungsten oxides. He was assigned research to determine the different types of tungsten, their oxidation and their reduction reaction. The results of his research were to be used in filament production. []

- c. Dr Jenő Neugebauer - was in 1947 at 28 years of age considered a brilliant chemical engineer. []

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